

To: Stanislaus, Mathy[Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov]; Breen, Barry[Breen.Barry@epa.gov]; Natarajan, Nitin[Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov]
Cc: Hilosky, Nick[Hilosky.Nick@epa.gov]; Brooks, Becky[Brooks.Becky@epa.gov]; Akinnusotu, Bunmi[Akinnusotu.Bunmi@epa.gov]
From: Cohen, Nancy
Sent: Mon 8/10/2015 9:53:32 PM
Subject: FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Mathy: Jim approved this response to the Guardian re the Animus River Spill. ORCR had nothing to add. Do you have any changes before I send it to OPA today?

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen

U.S. EPA OSWER

202.566.0171

From: Woolford, James
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 5:42 PM
To: Cohen, Nancy; Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Cc: Gartner, Lois; Wells, Suzanne; Stalcup, Dana
Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

EPA routinely monitors hardrock mine sites that are placed on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). However, EPA does not maintain records of the number of mines or tailings dams in the US. Tailings dam safety falls under the jurisdiction of State Dam Safety Agencies, and the Federal Land Management Agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and the Forest Service) that have jurisdiction for monitoring the dams on federal lands. EPA does investigate or respond to incidents that are brought to our attention. In August 1994, the EPA report entitled "-Technical Report: Design and Evaluation of Tailings Dams" noted that "EPA estimates that there may be several thousand tailings impoundments associated with active non-coal mining, and tens of thousands of inactive or abandoned impoundments."

From: Daguiard, Robert
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; Cohen, Nancy

Subject: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminos River Spill

All, I've sent this inquiry to Region 8 already, but it looks as though OSWER might want to take a look at the first two questions. Please let me know.

If we could get a response by COB Today, the reporter could run the story in tomorrow's paper. Please advise. Thanks, R.

From: Karl Mathiesen
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 7:45 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert
Subject: Guardian media enquiry

Hi Robert,

I'm a journalist with the Guardian writing a piece on the release from the Gold King Mine in Colorado.

I have a few questions on the background of the situation. Please do your best to answer them all.

On the general state of tailings dams and mines. How many such storage facilities are there across the country? How does the EPA monitor the maintenance and condition of mines and dams that are holding contaminated water? Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored?

It has been reported that the EPA has been trying to designate the area as a superfund area for some time. When was the idea first floated? Why was it unsuccessful? Does the EPA believe the spill would have occurred regardless of the lack of superfund designation? Would that have changed the way the clean up was undertaken (ie would there have been more money available and therefore less likelihood of a failure?)?

Best,

Karl

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Karl Mathiesen

London